



BARE BRANCHES

**The Security Implications of Asia's
Surplus Male Population**



**Nearly every civilization has
enacted son preference at some
point in its history . . .**

**But only in ASIA do we see that legacy
still in force today.**

Ratios to Remember

- Normal Birth Sex Ratio:
105-107 Boys per 100 Girls
- Normal Early Childhood Sex Ratio:
105 or fewer Boys per 100 Girls
- Normal Sex Ratio for Children Over 5:
About 100 Boys per 100 Girls
- Normal Overall Sex Ratio (all ages):
About 98-99 Men Per 100 Women

Overall Sex Ratios by Continent, 2000

Region	Males	Females	Ratio
Africa	395,573,000	400,097,000	98.9
Asia	1,879,417,000	1,800,320,000	104.4
Europe	350,900,000	377,086,000	93.1
Latin Am	257,526,000	262,703,000	98.0
North Am	155,239,000	160,676,000	96.6
Oceania	15,585,000	15,459,000	100.8
World	3,054,240,000	3,016,341,000	101.3

0-4 Sex Ratios by Continent, 2000

Region	0-4 Sex Ratio
Africa	102.0
Asia	106.9
Europe	105.5
Latin America	104.0
North America	105.1
Oceania	105.8
World	105.4

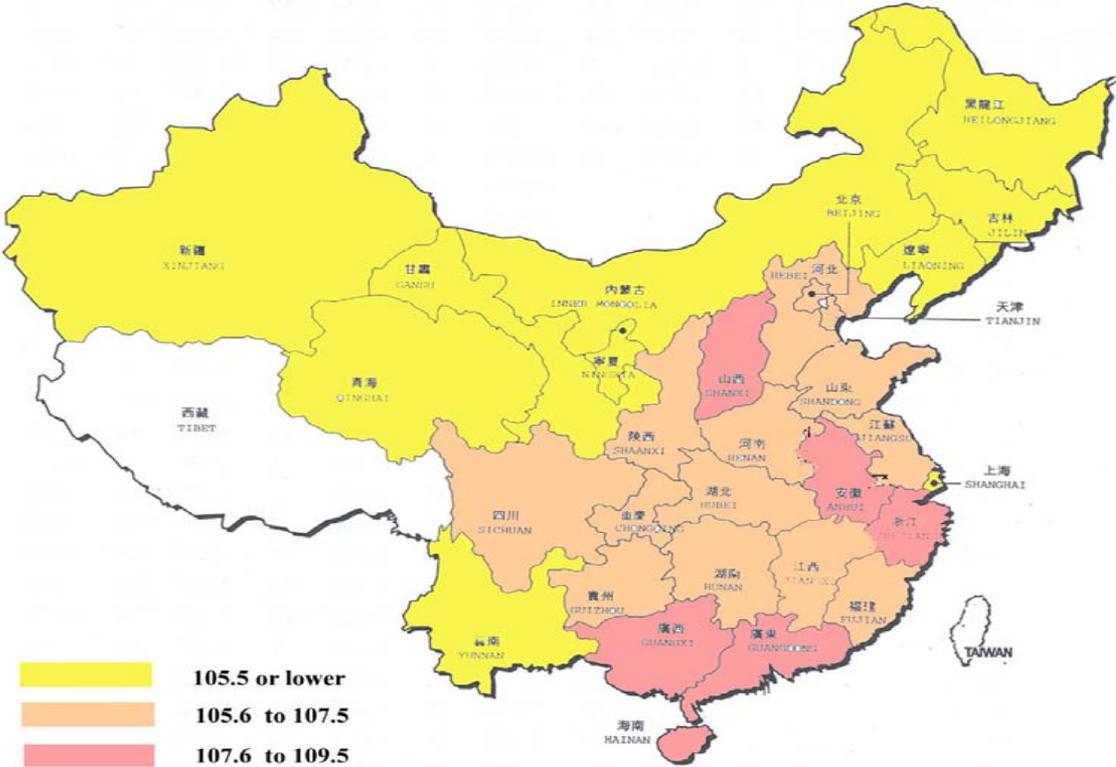
Birth Sex Ratios, Four Asian Nations, Various Sources

Nation	Reported Ratios	Years
China	116.9 120 118.65	2000 1999 1995
India	113.8 132 156	1993-95 Punjab, 1993 Rohtak, 1990
South Korea	109.6 115.3 116.9	2000 1993 1990
Taiwan	109.5 110.2	2000 1990

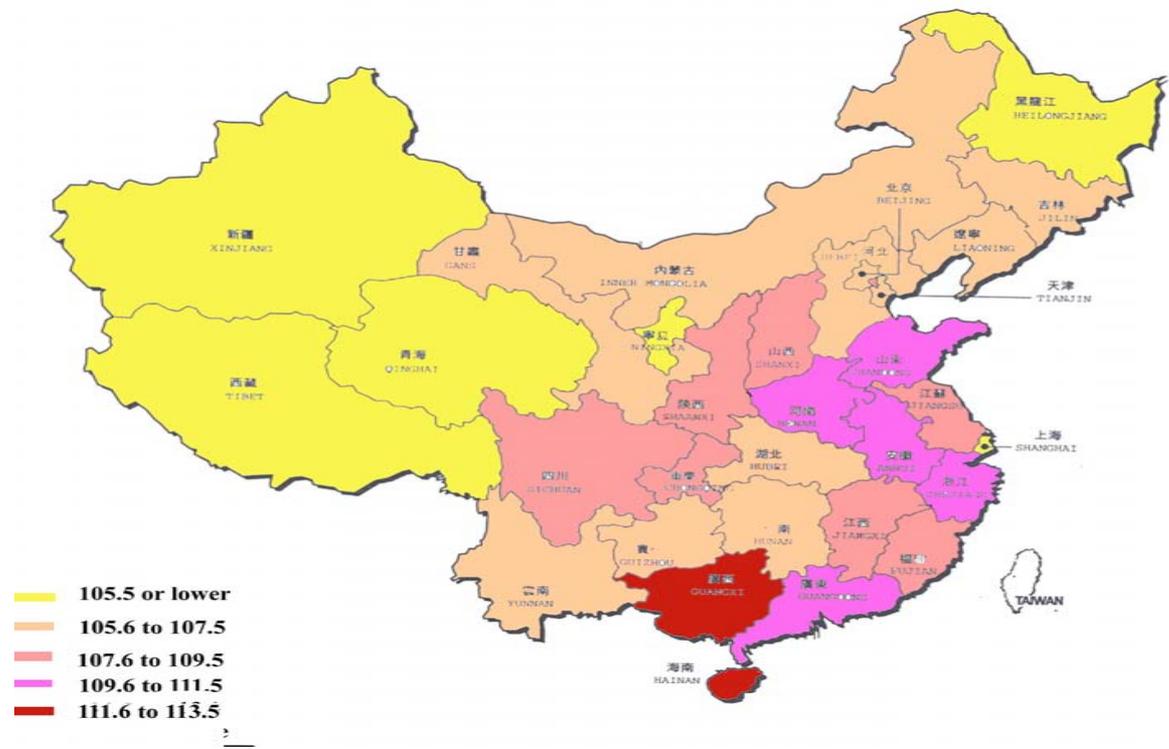
Asia's Missing Women: Seven Nations, 1998-2001

Country	Overall Sex Ratio	Missing Females
Afghanistan	106.5	1,108,266
Bangladesh	103.8	2,700,028
China	106.7	40,617,103
India	107.2	39,284,065
Pakistan	108.6	5,983,526
South Korea	100.7	151,073
Taiwan	104.3	448,512
Total		90, 292,573

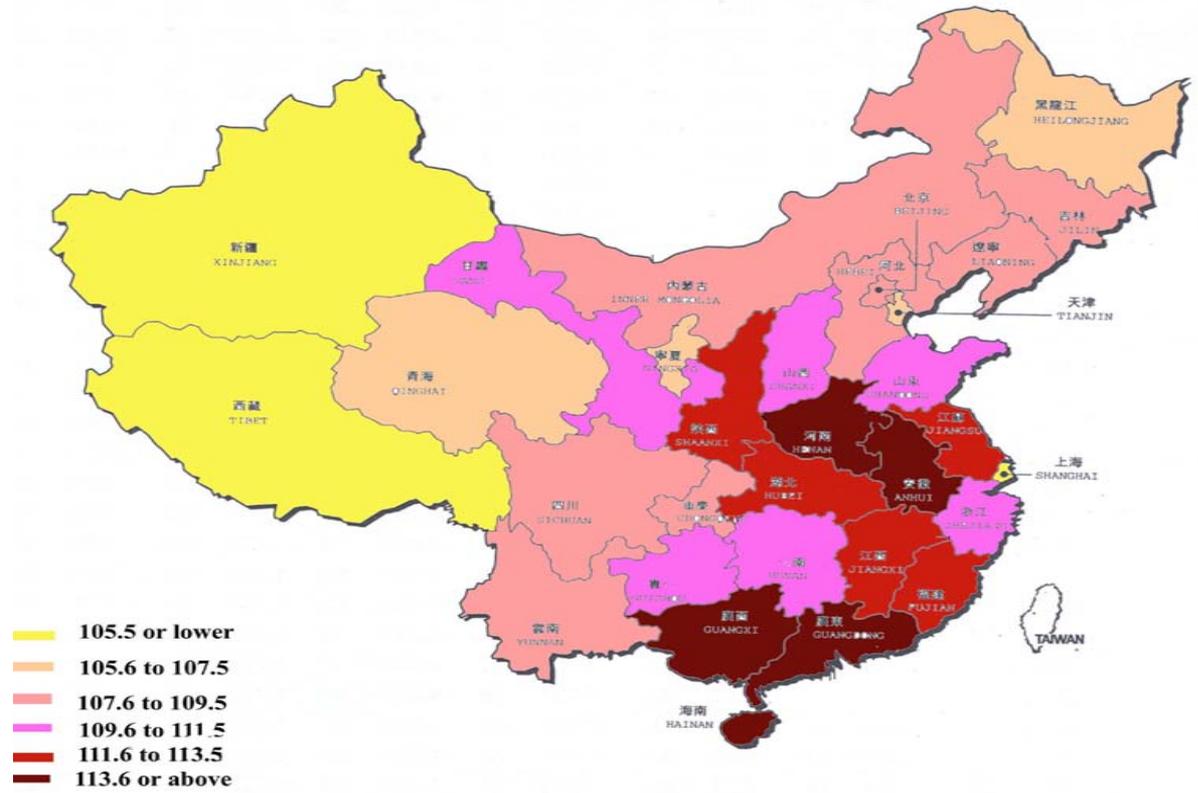
China 1982, Sex Ratio Ages 0-14



China 1990, Sex Ratio Ages 0-14



China 1995, Sex Ratio Ages 0-14



Copyright 2003, Judith Banister. All rights reserved.

Aggravating Factors

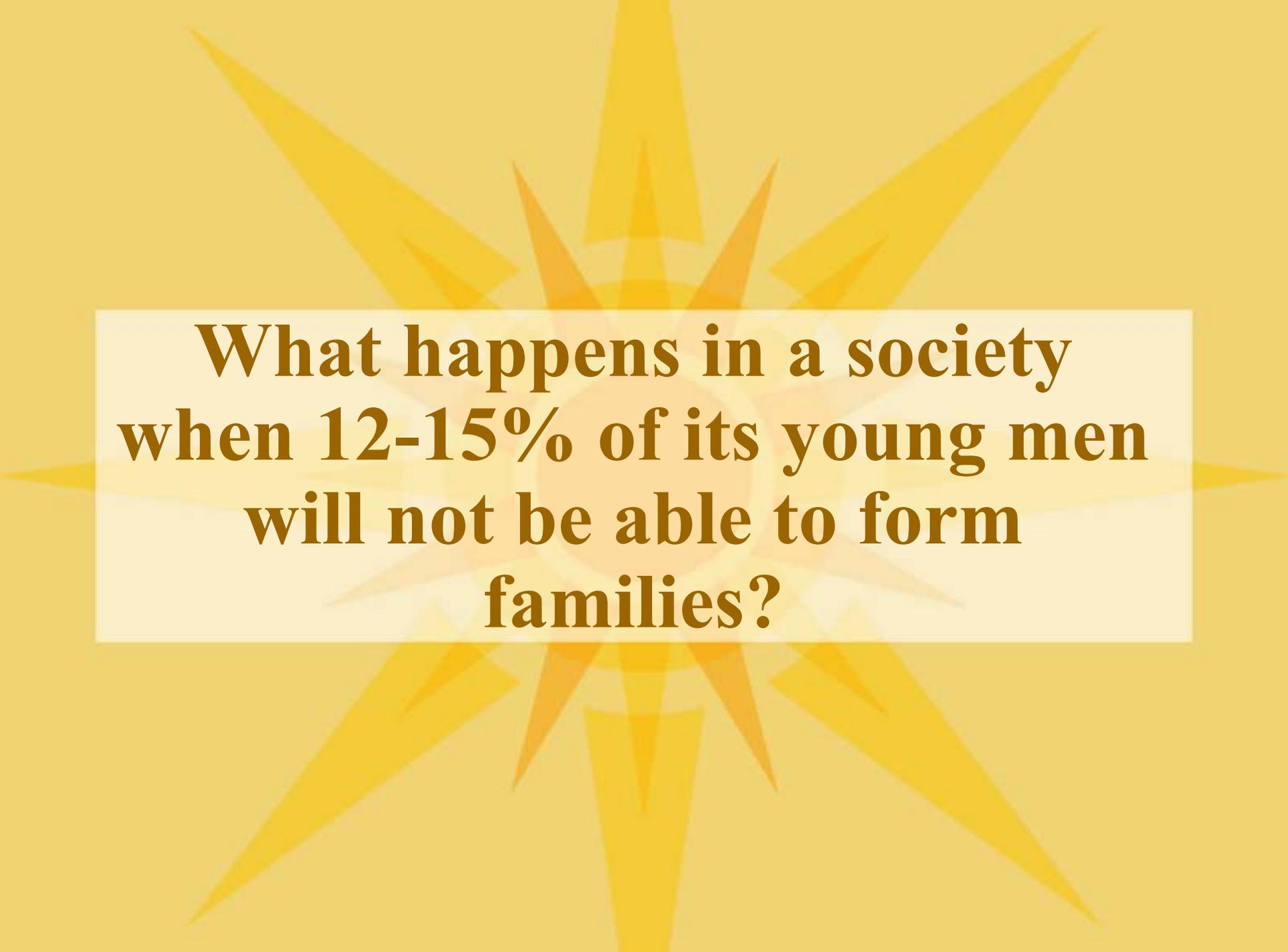
- China's One-Child Policy
- Dowry in India
- Patrilocality
- Social Security Norms
- Inheritance, especially of land
- Issues of religion and lineage
- Issues of labor and physical security
- Deep cultural devaluation of female life
- Fetal sex identification technology

Note . . .

- Female infanticide is strictly illegal in all these countries
- Sex selective abortion is strictly illegal in all these countries
- Telling a pregnant woman the sex of her fetus is strictly illegal in all these countries

The Other Side of the Coin: Bare Branches

- Best Estimates:
 - India: “Surplus” Males ages 15-35 in the year 2020: 28,326,000-31,671,000
 - China: “Surplus” Males ages 15-34 in the year 2020: 29,207,874-33,059,694
- This represents 12-15% of the young men of that age cohort.



**What happens in a society
when 12-15% of its young men
will not be able to form
families?**

New Initiatives by China (2004-2005)

- China: small old age pensions for families with only daughters
- China: school fees paid for families with only daughters
- China: sex selective abortion criminalized
- China--regional: prohibition of ultrasound after 14 weeks gestation; panel of three doctors must consent to abortion of a female fetus; monetary rewards for turning in back-alley ultrasound clinics
- China--future: possibility of going to 2-child policy after 5 years (2010)

**About 40% of the world's
population lives in China and
India . . .**

*Will the prospects for peace and
for democracy in Asia diminish
in lockstep with the value of
daughters there?*